GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1033
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Opening of Post Offices
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post offices and sub-post offices in both urban and rural areas of the country, State-wise including Maharashtra, Rajasthan and the criteria for opening of new post offices in rural areas;

(b) whether the same criteria is applicable for desert, hilly and coastal areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the covering area and population in the above areas;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the expansion of post offices and ongoing/pending postal and telecommunication projects in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof State-wise including Rajasthan and Maharashtra and the details of proposals received for setting up and upgradation of post offices in the country, State-wise including in district level post offices in Udaipur; and

(f) the number of people in whose name postal stamps have been released till date and the policy adopted by the Government for Post Bank?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) State-wise number of Post Offices functional in both urban and rural areas of the country including Maharashtra and Rajasthan (as on 31.03.2015) are at Annexure-I.

The criteria/ norms for opening of new post offices in rural areas are at Annexure-II.

(b) For desert and hilly areas, the criteria are different whereas for coastal area, the general norms for opening of post offices in rural areas are applicable.

(c) The details of distance, population and income criteria applicable for opening of new post offices in desert, hilly, tribal and inaccessible areas are at Annexure-III.
(d) & (e) Review of expansion of post offices is an on-going process. On review, if it is found that opening of new post offices are justified in particular areas as per prescribed norms for opening of new post offices, post offices are opened in those areas by relocation & redeployment under Plan Scheme.

As regards telecommunication projects, various schemes are implemented with the financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telecom services in rural and remote areas, details are at Annexure-IV.

The details of proposals received for opening and upgradation of post offices in the country are at Annexure-V. At present, there is no proposal under consideration for opening of district level post office in Udiapur (Rajasthan).

(f) There are 796 eminent personalities on whom postage stamps have been released till date.

The Government has proposed to set up India Post Payments Bank as a Public Limited Company with 100% Government equity under the Department of Posts. Reserve Bank of India has given "in-principle approval" for setting up the Payment Bank. The Payments Bank will leverage infrastructure of the post office to extend basic banking services such as payments, remittances, current & savings accounts and third party products especially in rural, un-banked and under-banked areas.

Annexure-I
State/UT and Category-wise Number of Post Offices functional in the country (as on 31.3.2015)

Sl.No	Name of the State/UT	HOs		SOs		EDBOs		Total		Total No. of Post Offices
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	Andhra Pradesh	56	3	583	950	134	8649	773	9602	10375
1.1	Telangana	35	1	388	429	159	4768	582	5198	5780
2	Assam	19	0	211	396	135	3251	365	3647	4012
3	Bihar	30	1	398	622	45	7971	473	8594	9067
4	Chhattisgarh	10	0	238	99	20	2780	268	2879	3147
5	Delhi	12	0	387	4	69	79	468	83	551
6	Gujarat	34	0	655	639	94	7504	783	8143	8926
6.1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	3	0	34	1	37	38
6.2	Daman & Diu	0	0	4	3	1	11	5	14	19
7	Haryana	16	0	301	180	28	2152	345	2332	2677
8	Himachal Pradesh	15	3	97	351	6	2310	118	2664	2782
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9	0	163	93	25	1409	197	1502	1699
10	Jharkhand	13	0	221	222	30	2613	264	2835	3099
11	Karnataka	58	0	817	837	179	7776	1054	8613	9667
12	Kerala	45	6	473	974	334	3222	852	4202	5054
12.1	Lakshadweep	0	0	6	3	0	1	6	4	10
12.2	Mahe	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	4
13	Madhya Pradesh	43	0	688	332	104	7156	835	7488	8323
14	Maharashtra	58	1	1081	971	102	10388	1241	11360	12601
14.1	Goa	2	0	45	57	7	147	54	204	258
15	North East	9	0	137	189	82	2503	228	2692	2920
16	Odisha	35	0	502	661	56	6915	593	7576	8169
17	Punjab	21	0	371	329	12	3074	404	3403	3807
17.1	Chandigarh	1	0	38	2	2	6	41	8	49
18	Rajasthan	47	1	585	716	27	8953	659	9670	10329
19	Tamil Nadu	93	0	1386	1312	344	8899	1823	10211	12034
19.1	Pondicherry	1	0	24	10	13	48	38	58	96
20	Uttarakhand	13	0	180	200	14	2316	207	2516	2723
21	Uttar Pradesh	72	0	1604	867	249	14863	1925	15730	17655
22	West Bengal	45	0	924	743	118	6929	1087	7672	8759
22.1	A & n Islands	1	0	10	16	1	72	12	88	100
22.2	Sikkim	1	0	11	11	0	186	12	197	209
Total		794	16	12530	12221	2393	126985	15717	139222	154939

Annexure-II
CRITERIA / NORMS FOR OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS

1. Norms for opening of Branch Post Offices (BOs):
1.1 Population:
In Normal Rural Areas:
3000 population in the group of villages to be served by the proposed post office (including 1000 population in the proposed post office village).
1.2 Distance:
In Normal Rural Areas: The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office should be 3 Kms.

1.3 Anticipated Income:
In Normal Rural Areas: The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.33 % of the cost. It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of a new BO, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor does its income reduce below the minimum prescribed.

2. Norms for upgrading/ opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices (SOs):
In Normal Rural Areas: The minimum work load of the BOs proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss in normal rural areas is Rs.2,400/-
It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor does its income reduce below the minimum prescribed.

Annexure-III

CRITERIA / NORMS FOR OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES IN HILLY, TRIBAL, DESERT AND INACCESSIBLE AREAS

1. Norms for opening of Branch Post Offices (BOs):
1.1 Population:
In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:
500 Population in the individual village and 1000 population in the group of villages.
1.2 Distance:
In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The minimum distance limit from the nearest existing post office should be 3 km. However, in Hilly, Tribal and Inaccessible areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Postal Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.
1.3 Anticipated Income:
In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.
2. Norms for upgrading/ opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices (SOs):
In Hill, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The minimum work load of the BOs proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss in normal rural areas is Rs.4,800/-
It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of a new BO, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor does its income reduce below the minimum prescribed.

Annexure-IV
Details of schemes being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications for expansion of telecom services in rural and remote areas
(i) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN): National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act, 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. State-wise status of NOFN, as on 31.01.2016, is given at Appendix-I.

(ii) Telecom Connectivity in LWE Affected Areas: Government has approved the project on 20.08.2014 to provide Mobile services in 2,199 locations [1,836 new sites & 363 sites already installed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)] in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The estimated project implementation cost is Rs.3,567.58 crore, to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). BSNL has been nominated to execute the project. As on 15.02.2016, 1,431 mobile towers are radiating out of 2,199 mobile towers.

Appendix-I (to Annexure-IV)

State-wise Status of NOFN (Bharat Net) as on 31.01.2016
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Sl. No. States/ UTs No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs) - Phase I Pipe laid (in kms.) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid (in kms) No. of GPs where OFC laid No. of GPs lit
1. Jammu & Kashmir 624 93 69 47 0
2. Himachal Pradesh 283 201 75 14 0
3. Punjab 6128 4432 3280 2055 0
4. Haryana 6090 4775 4340 2776 45
5. Rajasthan 6967 11281 10065 3092 71
6. Chandigarh 12 18 19 12 12
7. Uttarakhand 1767 1190 862 554 46
8. UP (West) 8040 8095 4290 2055 65
9. UP (East) 14474 14634 10545 4764 36
10. Bihar 5202 6416 5303 1936 124
11. West Bengal 2713 1933 1683 619 0
12. Sikkim 0 0 0 0 0
13. Assam 1013 1751 1359 515 23
14. Jharkhand 1388 2600 1862 770 84
15. Odisha 3388 4086 2960 1355 12

16. Andaman & Nicobar 69 0 0 0 0
17. Arunachal Pradesh 256 272 69 10 0
18. Nagaland 743 1160 509 154 0
19. Manipur 24 71 73 24 0
20. Meghalaya 638 737 210 47 0
21. Tripura 1021 1277 951 434 40
22. Mizoram 163 183 0 0 0
23. Madhya Pradesh 10516 15531 12134 3898 26
24. Chhattishgarh 2110 4368 3913 1258 171
25. Gujarat 5735 5508 3572 1648 91
26. Maharashtra 12055 11078 7826 3478 37
27. Daman & Diu 0 0 0 0 0
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 0 0 0 0 0
29. Karnataka 5599 9596 9248 4348 2283
30. Andhra Pradesh 0 1913 19 0 0
31. Telangana 2097 3912 2883 1296 5
32. Tamil Nadu 0 0 0 0 0
33. Kerala 977 746 810 1129 1129
34. Pudducherry 98 82 92 98 101
35. Lakshadweep 10 0 0 0 0
36. Goa* - - - - -
Total 100200
117939
89021
38386
4401

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* All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre.

Annexure-V
Postal Circle-wise number of proposals received for opening & upgradation of post offices
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Sl. No. Name of the Postal Circles No. of proposals received
1 Andhra Pradesh 17
2 Assam 02
3 Bihar 17
4 Chhattisgarh 12
5 Delhi 32
6 Gujarat including Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli 07
7 Haryana 06
8 Himachal Pradesh 23
9 Jammu & Kashmir 0
10 Jharkhand 01
11 Karnataka 11
12 Kerala including Lakshadweep 07
13 Madhya Pradesh 10
14 Maharashtra including Goa 21
15 North East
[States includes Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura) 24
16 Odisha 10
17 Punjab including Chandigarh 12
18 Rajasthan 05
19 Tamil Nadu including Pudducherry 11
20 Telangana 13
20 Uttarakhand 04
21 Uttar Pradesh 13
22 West Bengal including Sikkim 11
Total 269
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